

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 12 are now pending in the application. Applicant cancels claims 8-11 and 13-15 without disclaimer or prejudice to the subject matter contained therein. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Ash (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 20020125964). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner alleges that Ash discloses a buffer means forming a portion of the positive feedback loop. In particular, the Examiner states that "Figure 1 clearly shows a buffer means 110 forming a portion of the positive feedback loop." Further, the Examiner notes that the path from 111 to 113 is "for the portion of the positive feedback loop," (corresponding to buffer 113) and the path from 111 to 112 "is for the PLL feedback signal" (corresponding to buffer 112).

In contrast, Applicant's claim 1 requires a first buffer "that outputs the positive feedback signal from one output terminal" and "that outputs the PLL feedback signal from another output terminal." A second buffer outputs the clock signal. Ash does not disclose this structure. According to the Examiner, the buffer 113 forms the positive feedback loop, and the buffer 112 outputs the PLL feedback signal. Therefore, Ash does not show, teach, or suggest that the buffer 113 outputs the positive feedback signal and the PLL feedback signal.

Applicant amends the claims to clarify that the previously-recited buffer means includes a first buffer and a second buffer. Applicant respectfully submits that the first and second buffers as shown in FIG. 2 were implicitly included in the buffer means, and therefore the amendment does not give rise to new issues for examination. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as well as its dependent claims, should now be in condition for allowance.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claims 4-7 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowable subject matter. However, Applicant elects to defer amending the claims into independent form until after the above amendments and remarks are considered.

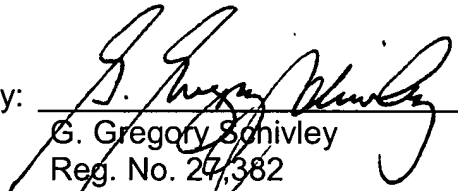
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Dec 16, 2005

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